pleased to state:

(a) whether the private sector has sent proposals for starting the power projects, after adoption of policy by Government to allow production of electricity in private sector;

(b) if so, what is the number of projects submitted to the Government upto August, 1996;

(c) the number of projects sanctioned by Government;

(d) the number of sanctioned projects on which the construction work has started upto October, 1996; and

(e) what is the power production capacity of the projects which are under construction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR. S. VENU-GOPALACHARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on date, 124 proposals have been received to set up power projects that require the techno-economic clearance of Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

(c) Out of the above projects, 19 power projects have been accorded techno-economic clearance by CEA.

(d) and (e) As per information available in the Ministry of Power, out of the 19 power projects cleared by CEA, construction work is at various stags on 8 projects aggregating to 3194 MW.

Production and Flaring of Natural Gas

1491. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total production of natural gas and the quantity being flared;

(b) the details of factors responsible for flaring of natural gas; and

(c) the measures taken by Government to control the flaring of natural gas and the success achieved, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The production of natural gas at present is around 62 MMSCMD of which 3.6 MMSCMD is being flared.

(b) Flaring of gas is due to technical requirements of field operation, lack of infrastructural facility, fluctuations in offtake by consumers, availability of gas at isolated structures etc.

(c) Steps taken to control gas flaring include setting up the required compression and transportation facilities, identification of consumers at isolated locations, underground storage of gas etc. As a result of such measures, the current flaring is around 5.8% of the production as against 6.7% in 1995-96 and 11.5% in 1994-95.

Production of Nuclear Fuel from Uranium

1492. SHRI BHAGABAN: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what is the annual production of nuclear fuel from uranium in the country at present;

(b) whether there has been a protest from green lobbies against Uranium mining;

(c) if so, the steps taken to find alternative sources to produce nuclear fuel; and

(d) the details of the plan of Government in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH): (a) It is not in the national interest to disclose information about the production of nuclear fuel from uranium in the country.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.